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An Easy Braided Leather Dangler Loop for a Knife Sheath

Schwert

- Skills and guides - DYI, Making things. -

Publication: Friday 16 November 2007

Description :

A very easy kangaroo leather braided dangler loop for the Skookum Bush Tool carver knife sheath.

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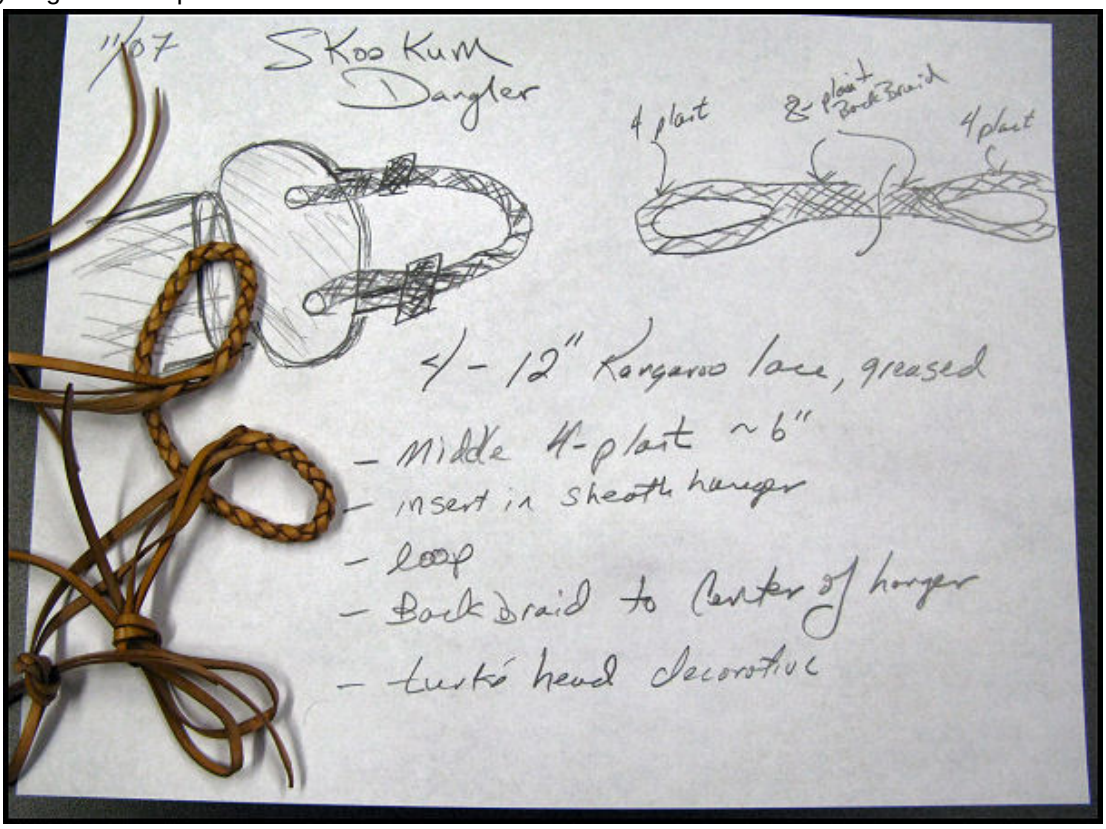
Rod Garcia made me a slightly smaller Skookum Bush Tool derivative that he calls his carver. Like all his knives he provided a sheath ready for various attachments....from neck cords or baldrics to simple dangler loops for belt wear.

In a previous article I braided a long baldric for the original SBT knife but for this carver I decided on a belt dangler loop.

This is a very simple braid. I decided to do a 4-plait round braid, loop that through the sheath holes then backbraid it to produced a nice solid dangler loop.

This was my original braid plan.



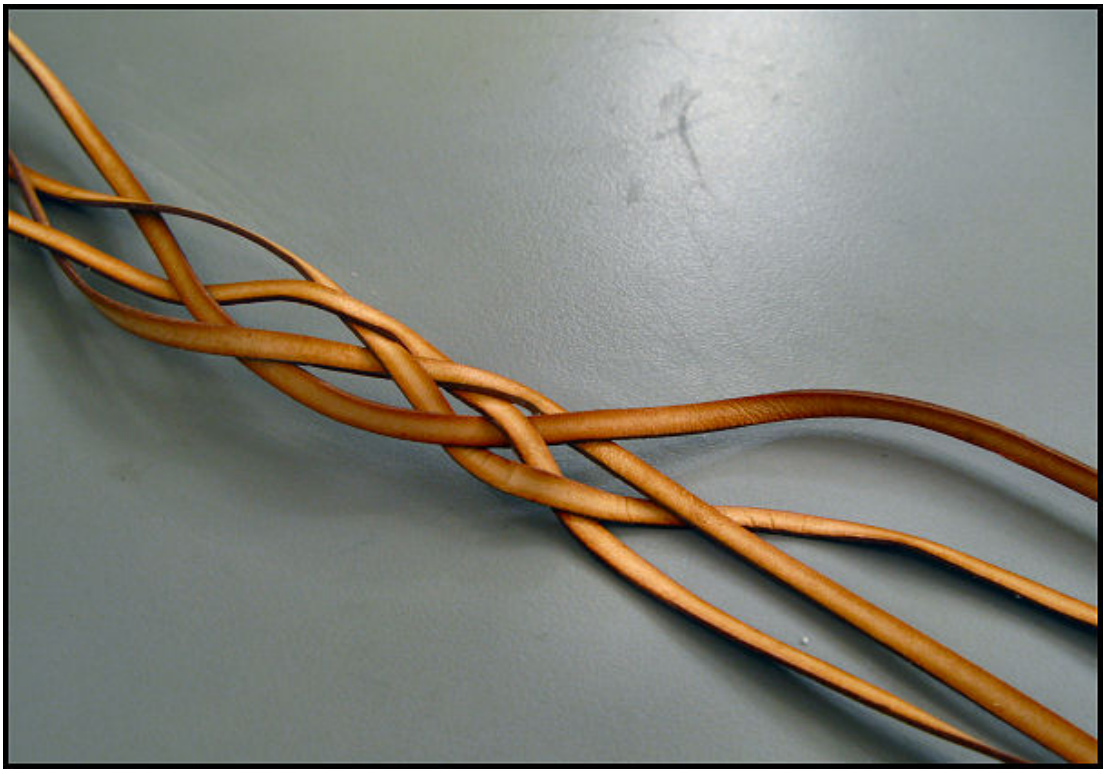
Braid Plan

Materials

Kangaroo lace, 3mm wide (1/8"), four strings each 2' long.

Belting awl

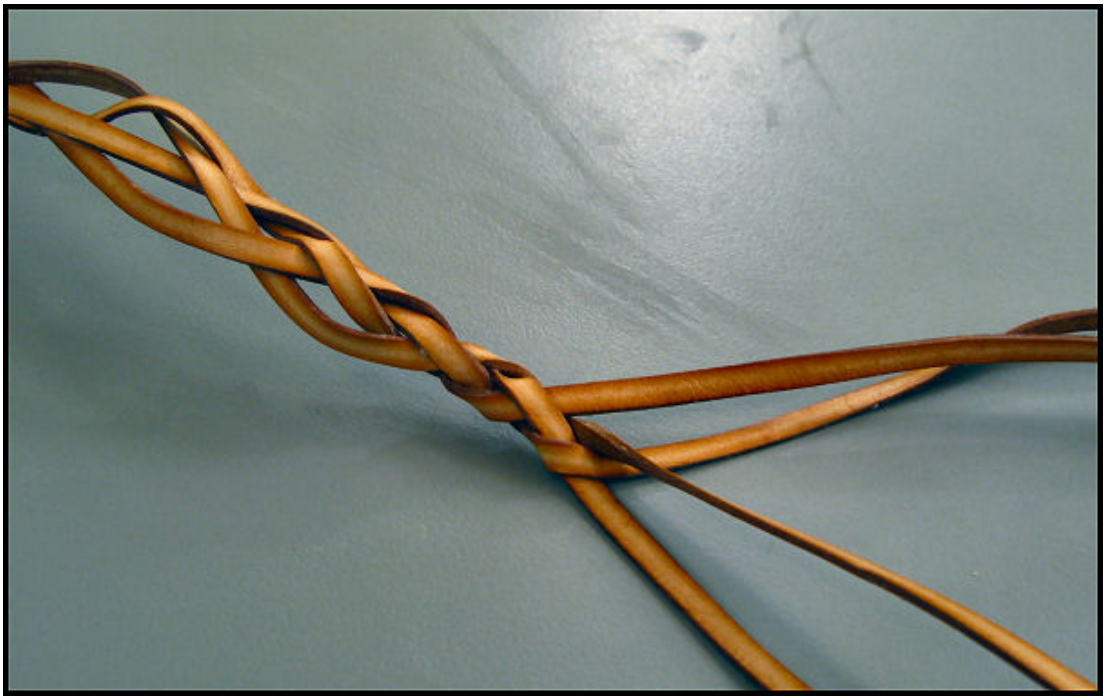
Angle cut the lace ends, stretch and grease it.



Middled 4-plait flat to start

Put all the strings together, flesh side up on a table, and find the middle. Start a loose flat 4-plait braid about 3" to one side of the middle.

If find it is very easy to start with a loose flat 4-plait braid prior to starting 4-plait round braid. This sets up the string set for an easy start. This can be loose as it will be removed later.



Start round 4-plait

Transition to 4-plait round braid. The upper string on the right side is brought around the BACK of the set, under one over one string.

This is repeated on the other side in standard 4-plait braid.

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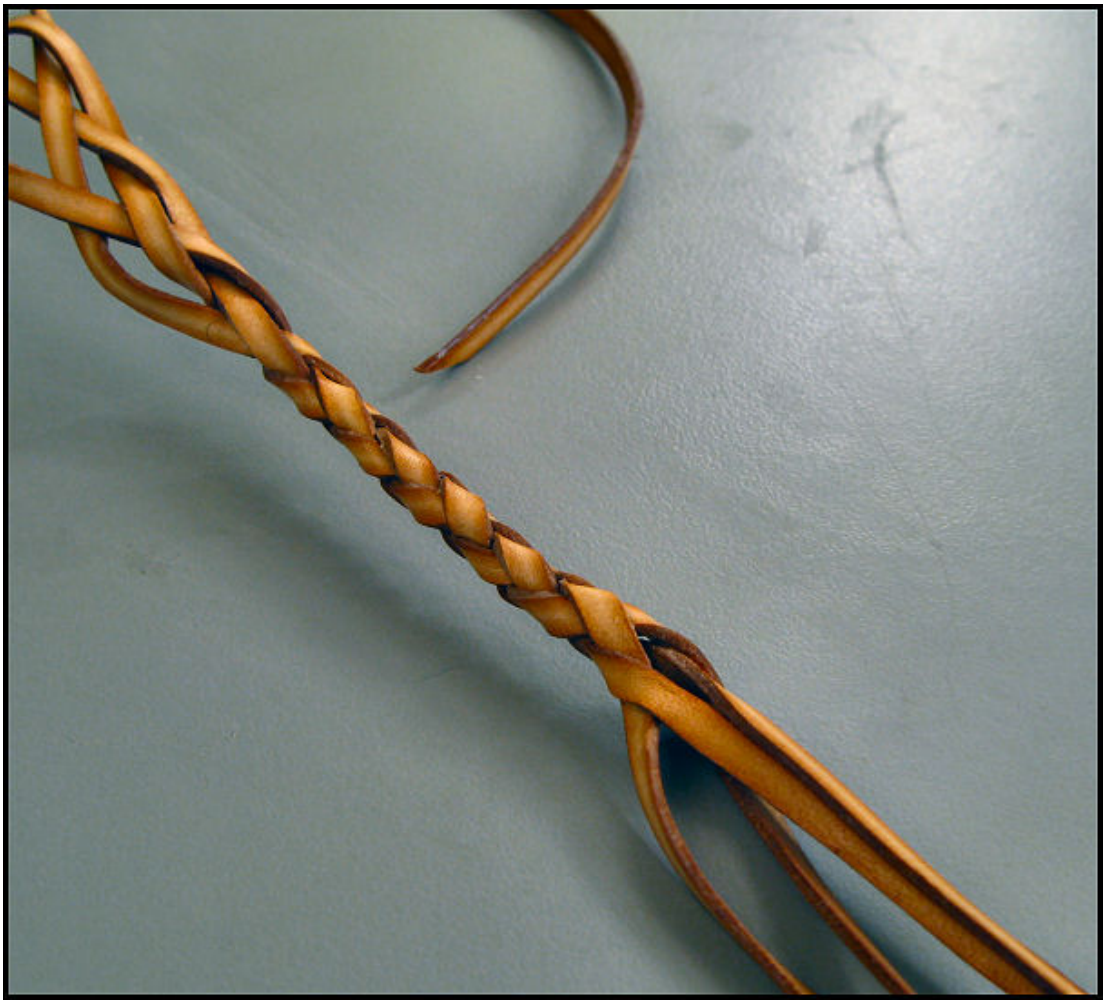

Tighten and continue 4-plait round

Tighten things up a bit and continue.

Finished 4-plait round in the middle

Braid about 6-7" of 4-plait round. All this is in the middle of the 2' string set.

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Loop through sheath

Insert one side into the SBT sheath hole and bend the set around and back onto itself.

Begin backbraid

I find it easiest to braid around the cord for 2 rounds just like you were braiding 4-plait, before starting the backbraid.

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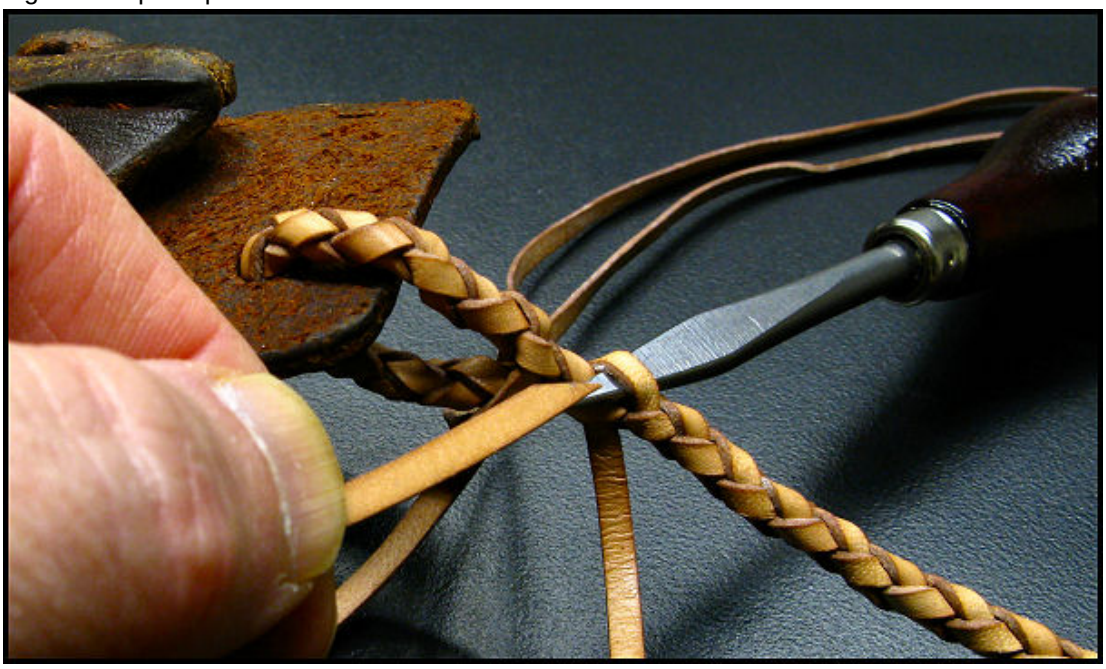
Insert and follow back

This should set you up so that you can see where to start inserting each of the 4 tails into the cord. Make sure you have 2 strings on each side of the cord....two will spiral to the right, two will spiral to the left.

It really does not make much difference where you begin, but make sure you follow the string you start on.

Use the belting awl to open up the braid and insert the first tail.



Second insert and follow back

Insert a tail on the other side.

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2 of the tails braided back to center

At this point I generally backbraid for 3 or more spirals one one tail before going back to the next one.

Here 2 tails have been backbraided to about the middle of the dangler cord.

4 tails back braided to center

All 4 tails have been backbraided to the middle of the dangler.

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Start other side

Start the other side and do exactly the same thing.

Wrap and then insert to begin backbraid

Braid around the cord to start, then begin inserting and following the braid. Again make sure you have two strings sprialing around each side.

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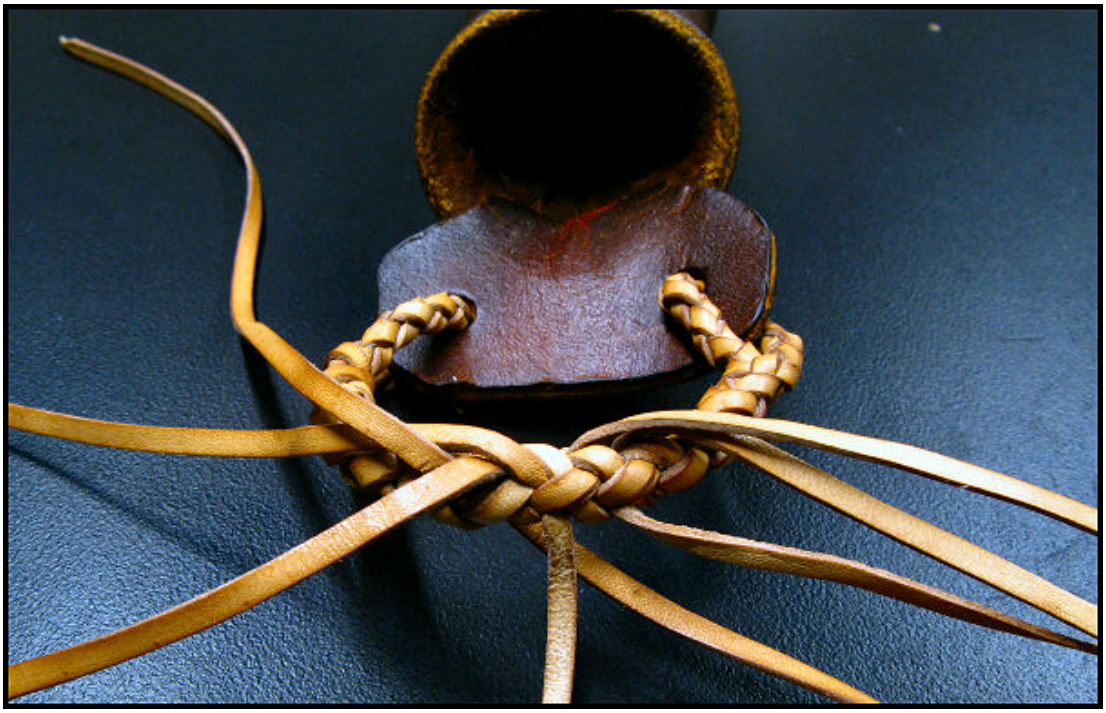

All tails back to center

Once all tails are back to the center, butt them right up against each other.

Pull tightly, roll the whole loop between your fingers, pull tightly once again. Use the belting awl to tighten up any sprials that are loose and straighten up the lay.

Tighten and trim all tails

Once you are satisfied with the lay, trim off all tag ends. These ends could be worked down the center of the braid if you desire, but these will hold if trimmed at the center.

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Notice the SBT carver biting into the leather...this was with just the weight of the knife. Rod delivers these sharp!

Finished with SBT carver out of sheath

Roll the dangler loop again the tension it a bit to pull things into line.

Finished with SBT carver in sheath

Done.

Resources

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My orginal Skookum Bush Tool article

The Baldric braid for that SBT sheath.

A knife lanyard pair of articles with more examples of simple round braids. Part 1 and Part 2.

Post-scriptum :Version 1.0 11/15/2007 Inception

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